

Message Text

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46

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 DPW-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 OMB-01

AID-20 DRC-01 /176 W

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P R 121025Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7011

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

CINCPAC HONOLULU

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

COMUSSAG NKP

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR VS VN MCAP

SUBJ: FURTHER REPORT ON GVN NEWS CONF ABOUT DRV CEASE FIRE
VIOLATIONS

REF: SAIGON 16226

1. MEDIA COVERAGE WAS HEAVY IN REPORTING TUESDAY'S (SEPT 11)

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SPECIAL GVN PRESS CONF. IT INCLUDED DETAILED STORIES BY FOUR

MAJOR WIRE SERVICES AND EXTENSIVE COVERAGE ON LOCAL TV AND RADIO. LARGE LOCAL PRESS REP AT CONF IS EXPECTED TO RESULT IN HEAVY PLAY IN SAIGON NEWSPAPERS WEDNESDAY (SEPT 12). SEPTEL WILL FOLLOW.

2. AT CONFERENCE, FONMIN SPOKESMAN NGUYEN BICH MAC EMPHASIZED TO CORRESPONDENTS CONTINUED GVN ADHERENCE TO ALL AGREEMENTS WHILE MOUNTING EVIDENCE PROVES THAT DRV AND NLF LEADERS "ARE PREPARING AN ALL-OUT ATTACK" WITH THEIR BUILDUP OF AIRFIELDS AND STOCK-PILING OF STRATEGIC SUPPLIES.

3. WHEN NEWSMEN PRESSED REPEATEDLY FOR GVN INTENTIONS IN EVENT THE DRV DOES NOT ABANDON BASES AND DISMANTLE SAM SITES, MAC STATED THAT THE "GVN RESERVES THE RIGHT TO TAKE APPROPRIATE MEASURES FOR SELF-DEFENSE AND MAINTENANCE OF SECURITY OF THE NATION." HE ADDED THAT "THIS IS A SERIOUS WARNING," BUT REFUSED TO ELABORATE FURTHER.

4. WHEN QUERIED WHETHER THE US WOULD GO ALONG WITH ANY POSSIBLE RETALIATORY MEASURES, MAC REPEATED THAT HE DID NOT WISH TO GO INTO DETAILS, BUT SAID, "OUR FOREIGN POLICY IS ONE OF INDEPENDENCE AND PEACE, AND WE INTEND TO DEFEND THE INTEGRITY OF OUR TERRITORY BY OUR OWN MEANS".

5. A VIETNAMESE REPORTER POSED THE QUESTION: "THE US IS OUR ALLY IN THE FIGHTING. WHAT IS THE ATTITUDE OF THE USG IN CASE HANOI DOES NOT WANT TO DISMANTLE MILITARY AIR BASES? DO YOU CONTEMPLATE REQUESTING THE USG TO SEND PLANES TO BOMB?" MAC ANSWERED THAT "THE GVN AND THE USG HAVE ALWAYS CONSTANT CONSULTATION" BUT REFUSED TO ELABORATE.

6. MAC CALLED THE SUPPLY OF DRV TROOPS BY THE PRC VESSEL "RED FLAG" IN QUANG TRI PROVINCE "A VERY SERIOUS ACT". HE SAID THE PRC THEREBY VIOLATED THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE GVN AND ENCROACHED ON THE TERRITORY OF SOUTH VIETNAM IN VIOLATION OF THE GENEVA ACCORDS. "THESE GENEVA ACCORDS," HE SAID, "ARE STILL FULLY VALID," AND ARE STRENGTHENED BY THE PARIS AGREEMENT, THE FINAL ACT OF WHICH WAS SIGNED BY THE PRC.

7. DURING THE PRESS CONFERENCE, COL DUONG HIEU NGHIA, DEP CHIEF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DEL TO THE TPJMC, SAID THAT ON SEPT 7 A STRONG PROTEST HAD BEEN LODGED WITH THE ICCS REGARDING ARRIVAL OF THE PRC SHIP IN QUANG TRI PROVINCE, AND THAT ON SEPT 11 ANOTHER PROTEST WAS MADE ABOUT DRV BUILD UP OF THE 12 AIRFIELDS IN SOUTH VIETNAM. HE ALSO SAID THE GVN WAS CURRENTLY IN THE PROCESS OF PROTESTING THE DRV ATTEMPT TO NEUTRALIZE THE ICCS BY DEMANDING A REDUCTION IN THE ICCS STAFF.

8. JOURNALISTS, OF WHOM SOME 100 WERE PRESENT, SHOWED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN THE PHOTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE OF THE DRV MILITARY BUILD UP OF AIRFIELDS AND PRESSED THE MILITARY BRIEFER, LTC LE TRUNG HIEN, FOR THE SOURCE OF THE PHOTOS. HIEN REPLIED THAT THE AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS WERE TAKEN BY AIRCRAFT BELONGING TO THE GVN AIR FORCE.
APPLING

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